

MARINE MAMMAL CONSERVATION DIVISION
OFFICE OF PROTECTED RESOURCES
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE
1315 EAST-WEST HIGHWAY
SILVER SPRING, MD, 20910 - 3226

DEAR MS. WETTING:

I'VE SENT LETTERS & FAXES BEFORE IN REGARDS TO THE U.S. NAVY REQUEST FOR A "SMALL-TAKE PERMIT" FROM YOUR AGENCY FOR A 5 YEAR DEPLOYMENT OF ITS LFA SONAR SYSTEMS - WHICH HAVE NOT BEEN TESTED FOR MANY YEARS, FUNDED BY TAXPAYERS' MONEY.

I ATTENDED THE HONOLULU HEARING WHICH YOU SO GRACIOUSLY PROVIDED - AND I WAS VERY DISTURBED TO SEE THE NAVY-RAID RESEARCHER SITTED ON THE RIGHT-HAND SIDE OF YOUR REP. KEN HOLLINGSTED - IT DEFINATELY GAVE AN IMPRESSION OF COLLUSION THAT SEEMED INAPPROPRIATE (BUT PERHAPS NOT SURPRISING? THE MAN'S PRESENTATION AND OPINION'S WERE DIFFICULT TO ACCEPT, IN THE LIGHT OF MANY OTHER ATTENDEES' PERSONAL EXPERIENCE AND ~~OBSE~~ OBSERVATIONS - AND ESPECIALLY AFTER READING THE FOLLOWING EXCERPT FROM THE U.S. MARINE MAMMAL COMMISSION'S REPORT TO CONGRESS:

"IF THE LFA SYSTEMS WERE MADE AVAILABLE FOR WORLD-WIDE USE AS PROPOSED, ALL SPECIES AND POPULATIONS OF MARINE MAMMALS INCLUDING THOSE LISTED AS ENDANGERED AND THREATENED UNDER THE ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT COULD POSSIBLY BE AFFECTED."

(THIS REPORT FURTHER ELABORATES POSSIBLE EFFECTS TO INCLUDE: DEATH FROM TRAUMA, HEARING LOSS, DISRUPTION OF FEEDING & BREEDING, ABANDONMENT OF TRADITIONAL HABITATS, STRESS - WHICH COULD INCREASE ANIMALS' VULNERABILITY TO DISEASE & PREDATION, CHANGES IN AVAILABILITY OF THEIR IMPORTANT PREY SPECIES - IN SHORT: SERIOUS CONSEQUENCES FOR MARINE MAMMAL SURVIVAL & REPRODUCTION.)

I WONDER IF YOU HAVE READ THIS REPORT, OR MIGHT HAVE OVERLOOKED IT FOR SOME REASON? I HOPE YOU WILL PLEASE TAKE THE TIME TO READ IT (IF YOU HAVEN'T) AND THEN LOOK AT THE OVERWHELMING PUBLIC CONCERN ABOUT LFA SONAR, NOTING THAT NAVY OFFICIALS HAVE PREVIOUSLY STATED THEY'VE EFFECTIVE PASSIVE SONAR TECHNOLOGIES WHICH CAN ACCOMPLISH THEIR GOAL OF "SILENT SUBMARINE" DETECTION - AND THEN PLEASE DENY THE PERMIT FOR DEPLOYMENT OF THE NAVY'S LFA SONAR SYSTEMS.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION IN THIS... ANOTHER,